

REMARKS

Claims 11-17 and 21 are rejected. Claim 12 is cancelled and claims 11, 14 and 21 are amended herein. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIM 12 UNDER 35 USC § 112

Claim 12 is cancelled herein.

Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11-15 AND 21 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 11-15 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,431,030 to Edwards. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 12 is cancelled herein.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to provide that the sack has first and second fastening means, where the first fastening means fastens first and second drawn together substantially opposing portions of the body near the open end of the sack and the second fastening means fastens third and fourth drawn together substantially opposing portions of the body near the open end of the sack, and where the first and second fastening means are configured such that the first and second portions can be fastened over top of the third and fourth portions or the third and fourth portions can be fastened over top of the first and second portions regardless of whether the sack is in an un-reversed or reversed configuration.

It is respectfully submitted that this comprises the following variations:

in an un-reversed configuration, the first and second portions can be fastened by the first fastening means before the third and fourth portions are fastened by the second fastening means so that the third and fourth portions are situated over the first and second portions,

in a reversed configuration, the first and second portions can be fastened by the first fastening means before the third and fourth portions are fastened by the second fastening means so that the third and fourth portions are situated over the first and second portions,

in an un-reversed configuration, the third and fourth portions can be fastened by the second fastening means before the first and second portions are fastened by the first fastening means so that the first and second portions are situated over the third and fourth portions, and

in a reversed configuration, the third and fourth portions can be fastened by the second fastening means before the first and second portions are fastened by the first fastening means so that the first and second portions are situated over the third and fourth portions.

By way of further example, with reference to Figs. 3 and 4 of the instant application, this indicates that strings 312 can be tied together under buttons 324, 326 or that buttons 324, 326 can be fastened together under strings 312 regardless of whether the sack is in an un-reversed (e.g., so that first pattern 340 is on the outside of the sack) or a reversed (e.g., so that second pattern 342 is on the outside of the sack) configuration.

It is respectfully submitted that Edwards does not teach these features. In particular, when the handbag in Edwards is turned inside out, the entirety of the buckle 15 is inside of the bag. Accordingly, if the flexible handles 9 are used first to draw together the open end of the bag, then the buckle 15 would be inaccessible because it would be "sealed" within the bag. Accordingly, the belt 14 could not be fastened to the buckle 15. Thus, the bag in Edwards does not offer all of the permutations afforded by the recitation provided in independent claim 1, as amended. It is thus respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable over Edwards.

Claims 13-15 and 21 depend from claim 11 and thus are also allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIM 16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Edwards in view U.S. Patent No. 1,587,891 to Berkowitz. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 16 depends from claim 11 and Berkowitz fails to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Edwards.

Additionally, claim 16 provides that the second fastening means comprises at least one button secured to an inside of the body of the sack, at least one button secured to an outside of the body of the sack, at least one button hole substantially opposite the at least one button secured to the inside of the body of the sack for fasteningly accommodating the at least one button secured to the inside of the body of the sack and at least one button hole substantially opposite the at least one button secured to the outside of the body of the sack for fasteningly accommodating the at least one button secured to the outside of the body of the sack, where the at least one button hole substantially opposite the at least one button secured to the inside of the body of the sack and the at least one button hole substantially opposite the at least one button secured to the outside of the body of the sack may or may not correspond to the same at least one button hole(s) (see Fig. 3 of application).

It is respectfully submitted that the suggested combination of Edwards in view Berkowitz does not teach these features. In particular, neither of these references mention buttons and/or button holes. It is thus respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable over the suggested combination.

Claim 17 was not addressed in the December 18 Office Action, but it is respectfully submitted that the claim 17 is allowable because claim 17 provides that the outside of the body of the sack includes a first pattern and the inside of the body of the sack includes a second pattern, and that at least one button secured to the outside of the body of the sack corresponds to the first pattern and at least one button secured to the inside of the body of the sack corresponds to the second pattern. Edwards and Berkowitz are both silent as to any such patterns and/or buttons, as well as any such

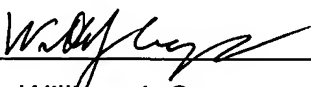
correspondence between them. It is thus respectfully submitted that claim 17 is allowable over both Edwards and Berkowitz.

IV. CONCLUSION

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Stashick for the telephone conversations on January 31 and February 1 related to this matter. Should the Examiner feel that another discussion would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, SHENP101US.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or item referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date February 16, 2007


Christine Gillroy